



This project has received funding from the European Union's Directorate General Regional and Urban Policy under Grant Agreement No 2020CE16BAT209



Feedback from mountain actors: what barriers do they encounter?

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20 September 2022



Slovenia, Podravje region and Maribor



Mountain regions in Slovenia



- **72 %** of mountain area in Slovenia
- **33,4 %** of Alpine mountains
- **40%** of the population



Regional Development Agency for Podravje - Maribor

1st Slovenian RDA (1993 →)



Important link for the development of 41 municipalities in the region Podravje.

Best service to the municipalities in the field of **regional development**, project support, **implementation of European funds**, integration, attracting investors, tourism development, smart specialization and support for the entrepreneurial environment.

Partnership for Pohorje (2019 →)



- 19 municipalities in 3 different NUTS 3 regions (Podravje, Savinjska and Koroška)
- 7 providers of tourism products/services
- 3 regional development agencies
- 3 tourist organisations

- Align partnership's aims, efforts and projects to create **green destination** with Europe-wide brand name recognition.
- Strive to preserve **natural and cultural resources** and to encourage **harmonious economic and tourist development** with emphasis on sustainable use of **natural wealth**.
- **“Strategy of Pohorje Mountains development”** and is also coordinating the preparation of **“Strategy of development and marketing of Destination Pohorje Mountains 2021 – 2027”**

Feedback from mountain actors: what barriers do they encounter?



Local workshops



8th Cohesion Report:
“Cohesion in the European Union has improved, but gaps remain”
especially in rural regions

**POTENCIAL BENEFICIARIES –
TOURISM PROVIDERS**



STUDENTS



MUNICIPALITIES



Barriers



1. What are the barriers hindering the uptake of the Cohesion funds in mountain regions?
2. **How can Managing Authorities and other relevant actors better inform mountain actors on the opportunities of the 2021-2027 Cohesion Policy in their region?**
3. What kind of support is needed to help mountain stakeholders make the most of these funds?

POTENCIAL BENEFICIARIES – TOURISM PROVIDERS

1. Too narrowly focused on scarced funds for tourism development and green growth.

2. No cooperation among the providers - networking not only within the producers but mostly with the public representatives such as RDA.

3. A need for more green and digital infrastructure as well as services (small wind power plant, renovation of mountain hut/lodge).

Barriers



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STUDENTS

1. They suggest that e-mobility and environmentally friendly measures should be introduced on national, regional as well as on local level.

2. To improve more publicity and information in mass media.

3. More success stories and testimonies in their region should be presented.

Barriers



1. What are the barriers hindering the uptake of the Cohesion funds in mountain regions?
2. **How can Managing Authorities and other relevant actors better inform mountain actors on the opportunities of the 2021-2027 Cohesion Policy in their region?**
3. What kind of support is needed to help mountain stakeholders make the most of these funds?

MUNICIPALITIES

1. A new instrument for the implementation of regional development policy was introduced but limited the possibility of local communities to apply for the subsidies and grants to a few measures of the Operational Programme for the Cohesion Policy.

2. **In the 2021–2027 the Operational Programme is still in the draft form but limited possibilities of the so called endogenous regional policy by dividing the measures for urban areas and the rest of local communities, which is not in line with the polycentric development model of the Slovenia.**

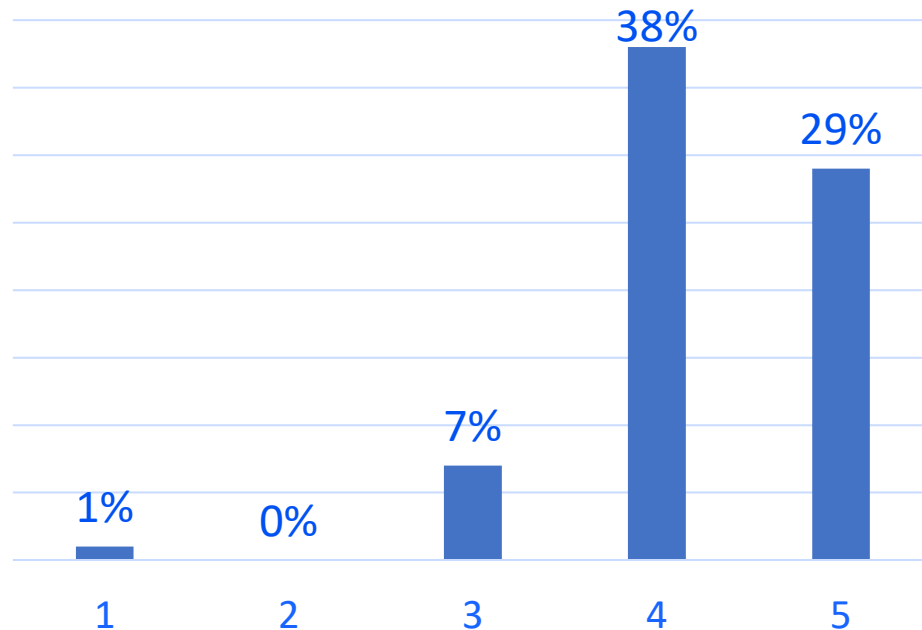
3. The representatives also agreed that there is a need to divide the Cohesion Policy for East and West and manifest it in two Operational Programmes.

Feedback from the local workshops

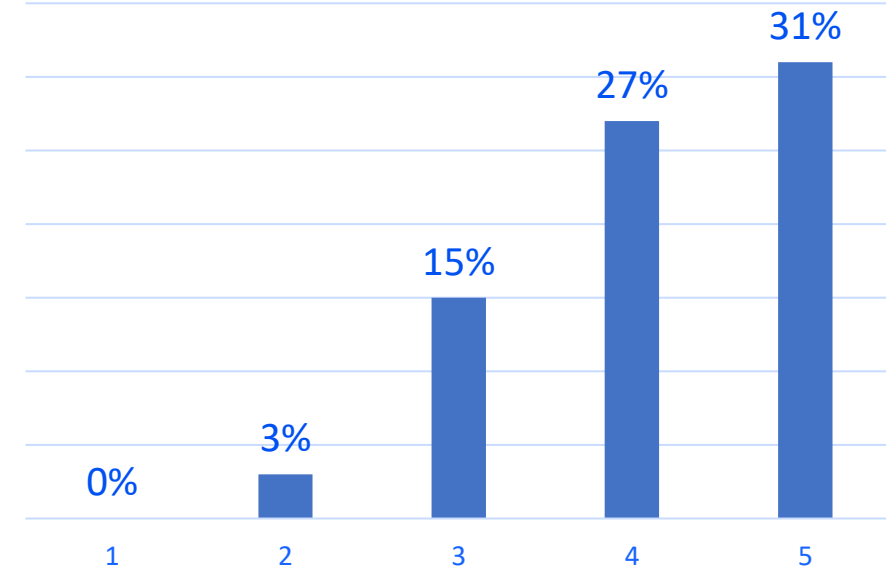


Have you ever received cohesion policy funding?
What projects were funded?

How much were you satisfied with the content of this local workshop? (1 - not at all, 5 - absolutely)



Did you learn new things from this workshop? (1- not at all, 5- absolutely)

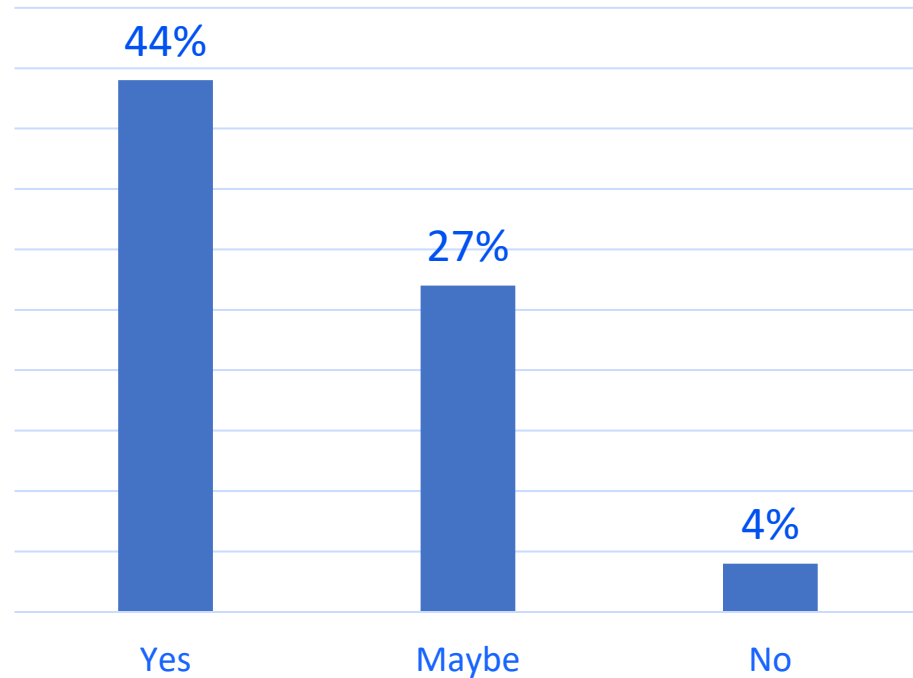


Feedback from the local workshops

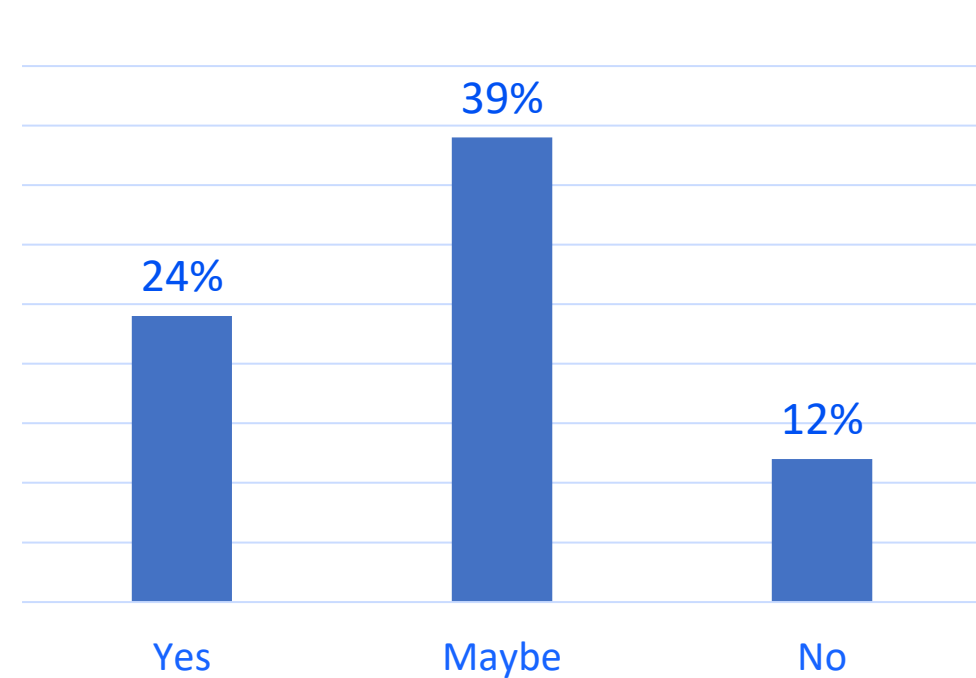


Have you ever received cohesion policy funding?
What projects were funded?

Would you like to learn more on the Cohesion Policy and its opportunities in mountains?



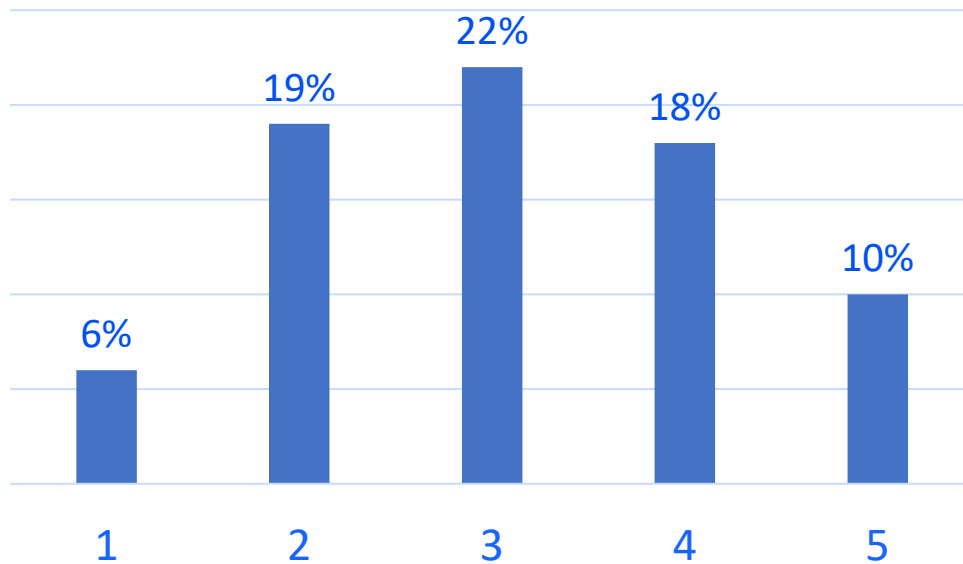
Do you plan to apply for some Cohesion Policy funding in the future?



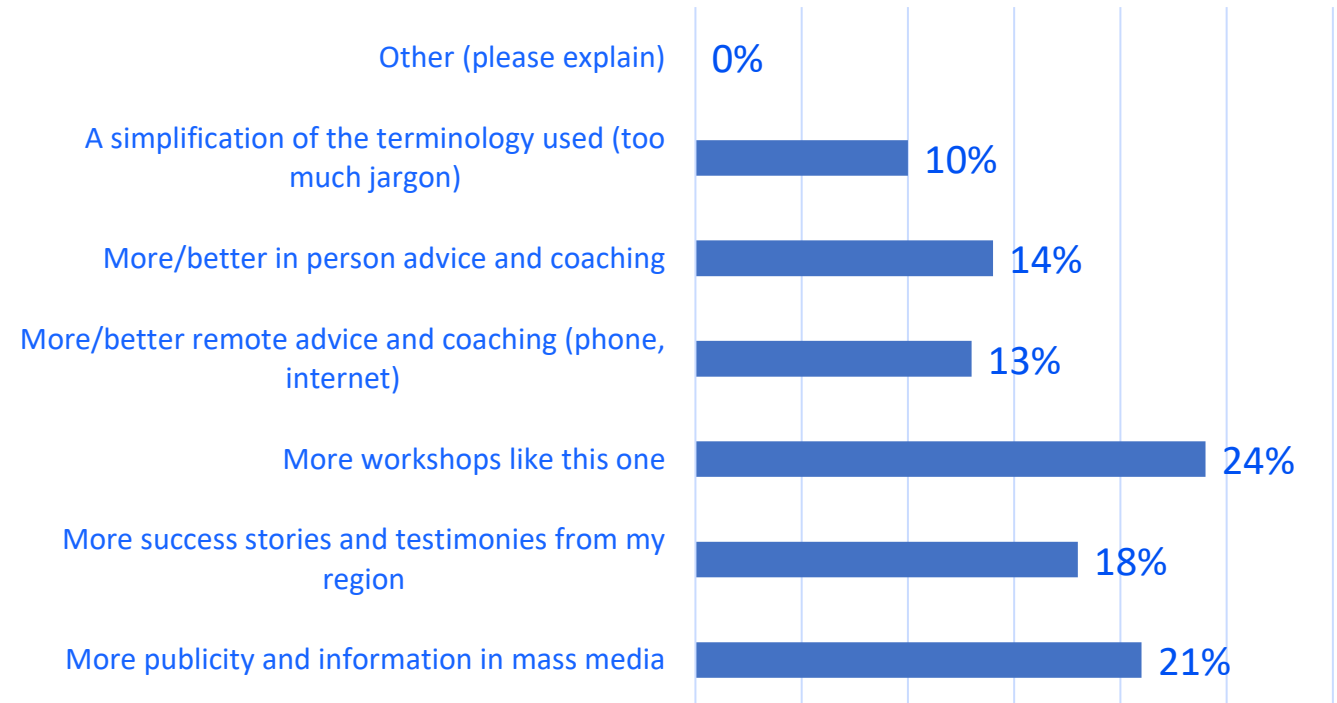
Feedback from the local workshops of all partners



Generally, do you feel you are receiving appropriate information and support from local authorities about how to use Cohesion Policy funding? (1- not at all, 5- absolutely)



What do you think could be improved in the way Cohesion Policy funding is explained to citizens?



Welcome to FREE YOUR MIND on Pohorje!





**Thank you for your
attention!**

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